

COUNTY ISSUES SUB-WORKGROUP

Monday, January 7, 2002

Meeting Notes

1- **Introductions, Prior meeting notes**

Ray Reis called the meeting to order. The meeting notes from December 17, 2001 were approved without changes.

2- **County Social Service Programs as Health Plans (Consensus Item #8)**

Ray Reis reviewed Consensus Item #8 which addresses the principal purpose of County Social Service Programs. Meg Sheldon and David Smith suggested changes to the final paragraph under "Reasoning." The amended wording follows: "Therefore we conclude that County Social Services programs are generally excluded from the definition of health plan." The group agreed to the Consensus Item as amended.

3- **County Indigent Health Services Programs as Health Plans (Consensus Item #7)**

Jim Watkins, Riverside County, presented Consensus Item #7 "County MISP Programs and the HIPAA Health Plan Definition." The Consensus item states that Medically Indigent Services Programs (MISP) are not health plans as defined by HIPAA.

Ray Reis said Judith Reigel had suggested that the first sentence, "Services for the medically indigent are an unfounded State mandate, and not a State program" be amended to delete "unfunded." Her concern is that the term may detract from the consensus item's major focus.

County Sub-Workgroup participants asked, "If a County contracts for services, does that make it a health plan?" "If a County establishes and determines eligibility for MISP, does that make it a health plan?"

David Smith suggested that it might make more sense to determine what a county needs to have in place to qualify as a "health plan." He said it might be more helpful to provide an assessment tool than telling Counties they are NOT a health plan when they may fit the definition.

Meg Sheldon suggested that the assessment tool look at what is listed in HIPAA regulations as a health plan. If none of the items applies to a County, then it is not a health plan.

Due to time constraints, the group decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting. David Smith said he would work with others on a tool that could be applied to all county services, not just MISPs.

4- **Sub-Workgroup Products**

Alan Zamansky, Office of HIPAA Implementation (OHI), presented the results of the survey OHI conducted of Counties in December 2001. The survey results have since been e-mailed to County Sub-Workgroup members. The Sub-Workgroup members asked (responses in bold):

“Can the survey be placed on the website?” **Don’t know – will see**

“What is the plan for the information gathered?” **Don’t know**

“Can we expect to see assistance from the State?” **Don’t know**

5- **Next Meeting – January 28, 2002**

New Sub-Workgroup Co-Chairs David Smith, Steve Marshall and Terry Hogan were introduced.

Items for the next agenda will include:

- Further discussion of Consensus Item #8 – MISPs as Health Plans
- Draft of Consensus Item #9 addressing social service programs as health care providers
- Discussion of County Sub-Workgroup Direction for the Future